



# Flu Watch

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

Week Ending October 31, 2015 (MMWR Week 43)

*All data are provisional and may change as more reports are received.*

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## MMWR Week 43 at a Glance:

### Influenza Activity Synopsis:

During MMWR week 43 influenza activity in South Carolina generally decreased, with a slight increase in positive rapid tests. Flu activity is currently low. South Carolina reported SPORADIC activity.

### Laboratory surveillance:

- 138 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported from 21 counties.
- 255 (56.7%) of all laboratory-confirmed cases this season are influenza A, 177 (39.3%) are influenza B, 12 (2.7%) are influenza A/B, and 6 (1.3%) are influenza unknown subtype.

### ILI Activity (South Carolina baseline is 2.05%):

- The percentage of visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (0.55%) was below South Carolina's baseline. ILI percentages represent ILI activity reported by less than half of enrolled sentinel providers. Therefore, ILI percentages may not be representative of actual flu activity.

### Hospitalizations:

- 13 laboratory confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. Since October 4, 2015, 63 laboratory confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations have been reported.

### Deaths:

- No laboratory confirmed influenza-associated deaths were reported. Since October 4, 2015 five laboratory confirmed influenza associated deaths have been reported.

**Summary of Laboratory Confirmed Tests, ILI Activity, Influenza Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths Compared to Previous Week and Previous Season**

	<i>Current week</i>	<i>Previous week</i>	<i>Change from previous week</i>	<i>Cumulative (2015-16)</i>	<i>Cumulative (2014-15)</i>	<i>Cumulative change 2015-16 compared to 2014-15</i>
Number of positive confirmatory tests (culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA)	0	2	▼ 100%	3	5	▼ 20.0%
Positive rapid antigen tests	138	117	▲ 2.6%	450	429	▲ 4.9%
Percent of ILI visits reported by ILINet providers	0.55%	1.87%	▼ 1.32%	--	--	--
Number of lab confirmed flu hospitalizations	13	20	▼ 35.0%	63	38	▲ 65.8%
Number of lab confirmed flu deaths	0	1	▼ 100%	5	4	▲ 25.0%

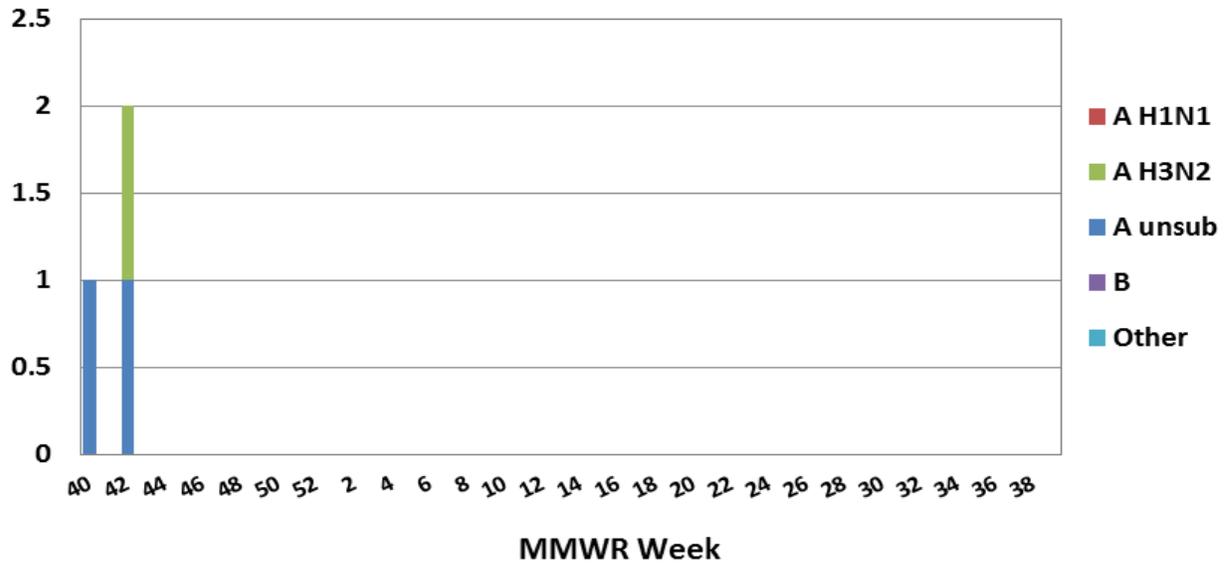
## I. Confirmatory testing

<i>Positive confirmatory influenza test results*</i> <i>Current MMWR Week (10/25/15 – 10/31/15)</i>	
	<b>BOL and reference labs</b>
<b>Number of positive confirmatory tests</b>	0
<b>Influenza A unsubtype</b>	0
<b>Influenza A H1N1</b>	0
<b>Influenza A H3N2</b>	0
<b>Influenza B</b>	0
<b>Other</b>	0
Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA	

For the current MMWR reporting week, No positive confirmatory tests were reported.

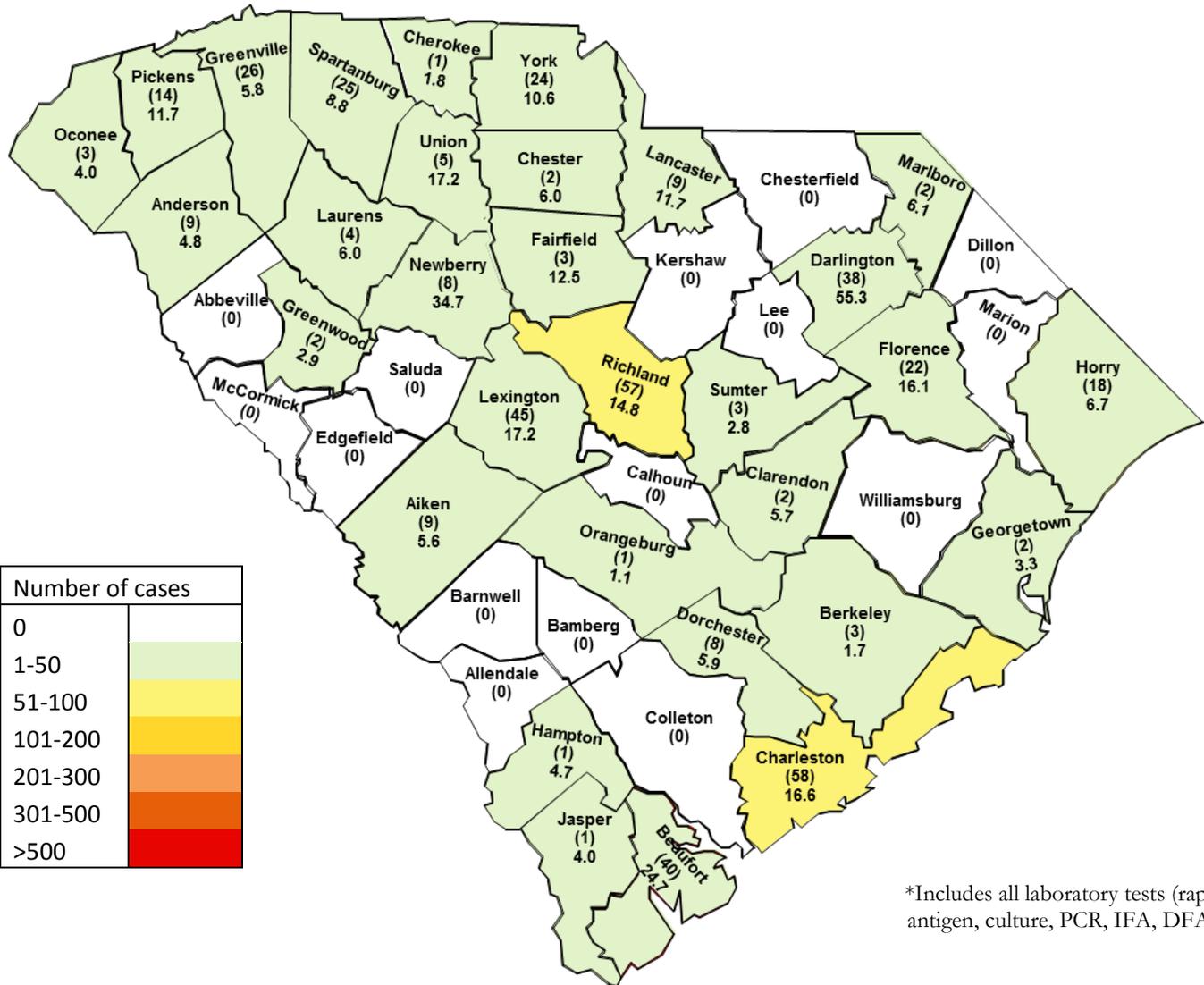
<i>Positive confirmatory influenza test results*</i> <i>Cumulative (10/4/15 – 10/31/15)</i>	
	<b>BOL and reference labs</b>
<b>Number of positive confirmatory tests</b>	3
<b>Influenza A unsubtype</b>	2
<b>Influenza A H1N1</b>	0
<b>Influenza A H3N2</b>	1
<b>Influenza B</b>	0
<b>Other</b>	0
Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA	

Positive Confirmatory Tests (Culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA) by MMWR Week  
2014-2015 Season



\*Includes culture, PCR, DFA, IFA

Map of all Laboratory Confirmed Cases (n)\* and  
 Population Case Rates/100,000 by County  
 Cumulative 10/4/15 – 10/31/15

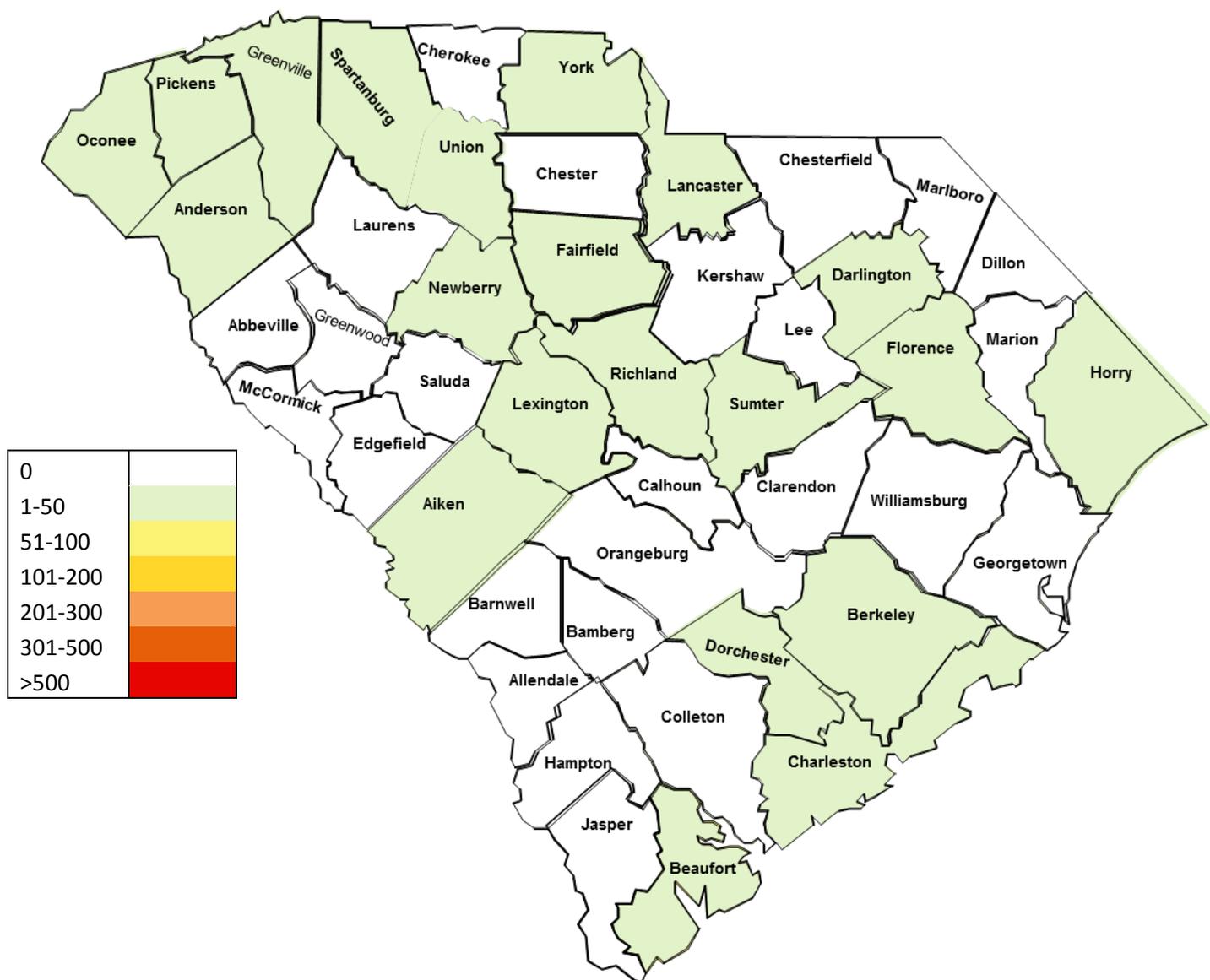


\*Includes all laboratory tests (rapid antigen, culture, PCR, IFA, DFA.)

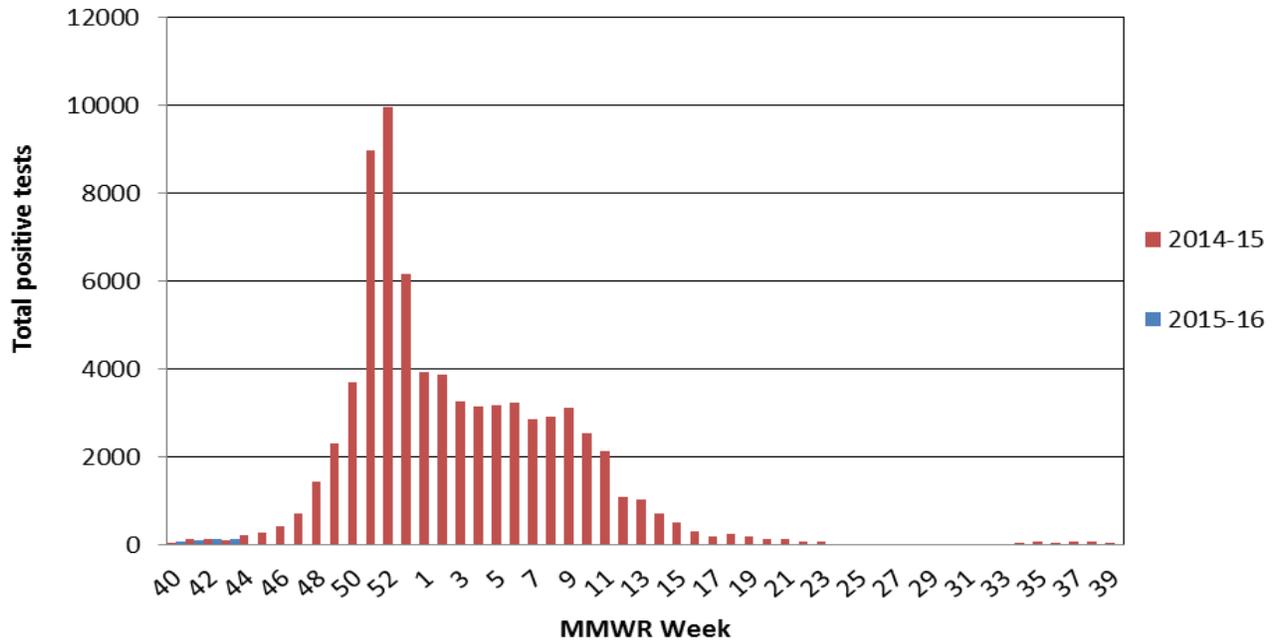
## II. Positive Rapid Antigen Tests

For the current MMWR reporting week, 138 positive rapid antigen tests were reported. Of these, 78 were influenza A, 53 were influenza B, and 7 was influenza AB. This compares to 111 during this same week last year.

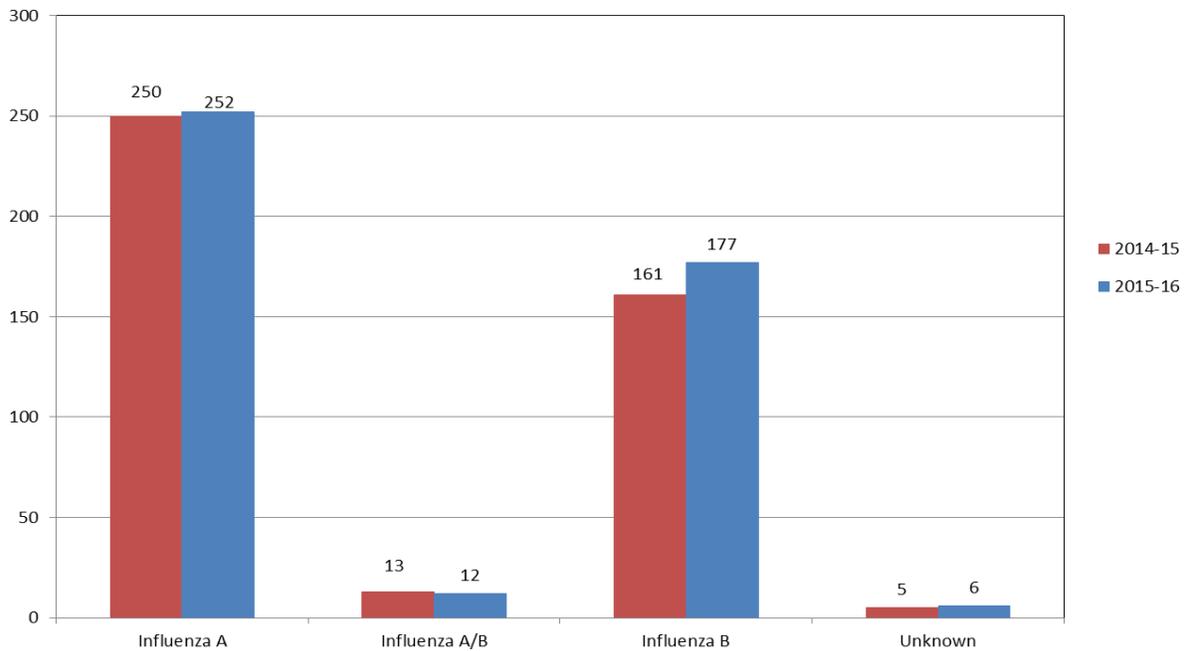
Map of Positive Rapid Influenza Tests by County  
(10/25/15 - 10/31/15)



## Positive Rapid Tests by MMWR Week 2014-15 vs 2015-16

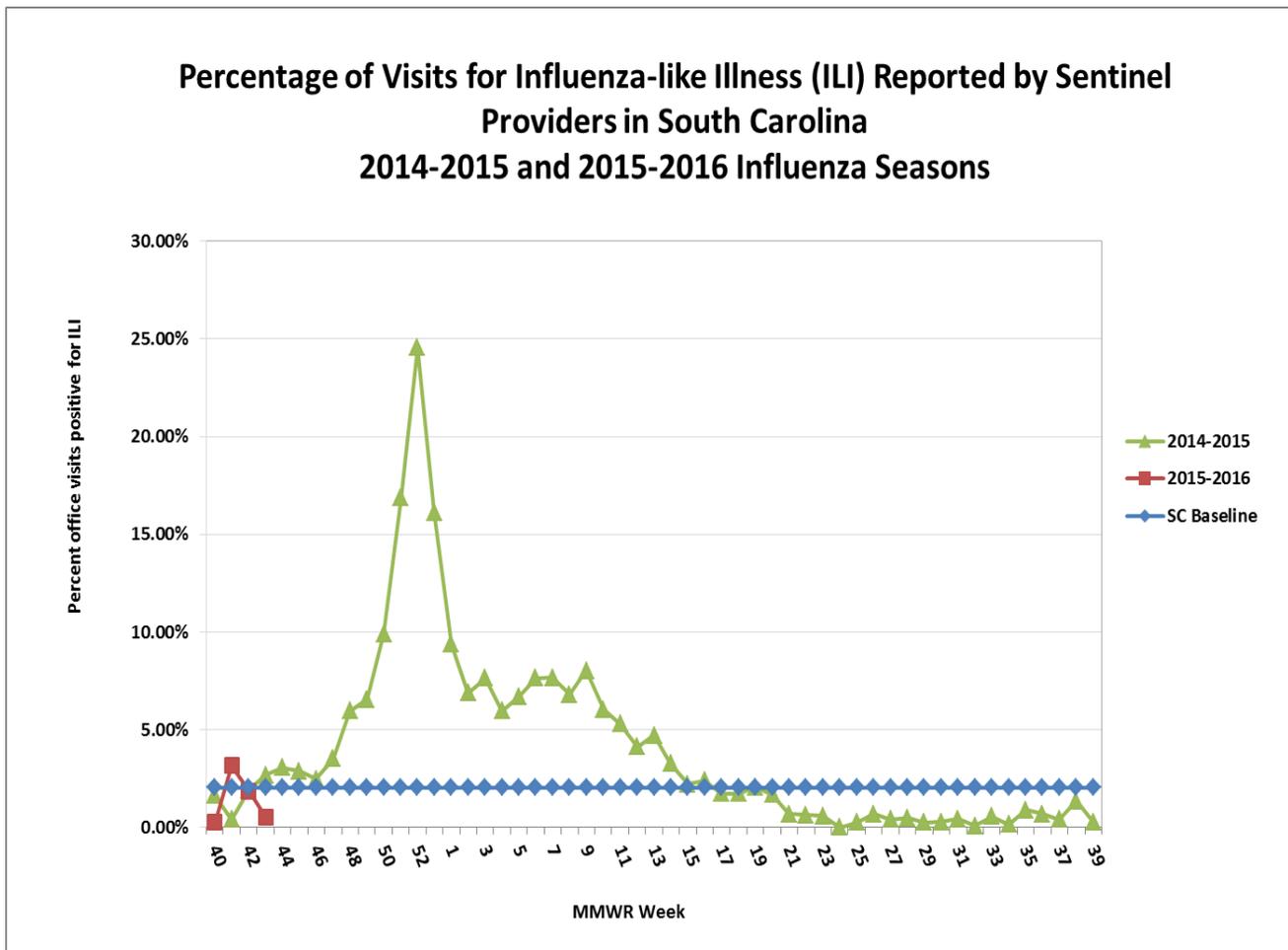


## Positive Rapid Tests by Type 2014-15 vs 2015-16 October 4, 2015 - October 31, 2015



### III. ILINet Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

During the most recent MMWR week, 0.55%\* of patient visits to SC ILINet providers were due to ILI. This is below the state baseline (2.05%). This ILI percentage compares to 2.69% this time last year. Reports were received from providers in 6 counties, representing all of the 4 regions.



\*The SC baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks (weeks when percent of positive lab tests was below 20%) for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. \* ILI percentage is dependent upon the number of reporting providers and can be greatly influenced by a single provider with high numbers of ILI.

**Influenza-Like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers  
October 25, 2015 – October 31, 2015**

<b>County</b>	<b>ILI %</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>ILI %</b>
Abbeville	---	Greenwood	NR
Aiken	0.42%	Hampton	NR
Allendale	---	Horry	--
Anderson	NR	Jasper	--
Bamberg	---	Kershaw	--
Barnwell	---	Lancaster	---
Beaufort	NR	Laurens	NR
Berkeley	NR	Lee	---
Calhoun	---	Lexington	NR
Charleston	0.75%	Marion	---
Cherokee	---	Marlboro	---
Chester	---	McCormick	NR
Chesterfield	---	Newberry	---
Clarendon	---	Oconee	---
Colleton	---	Orangeburg	---
Darlington	---	Pickens	0%
Dillon	---	Richland	NR
Dorchester	NR	Saluda	0%
Edgefield	---	Spartanburg	NR
Fairfield	---	Sumter	NR
Florence	0.58%	Union	---
Georgetown	NR	Williamsburg	---
Greenville	NR	York	0.70%

NR: No reports received  
 ---: No enrolled providers

#### IV. Influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths

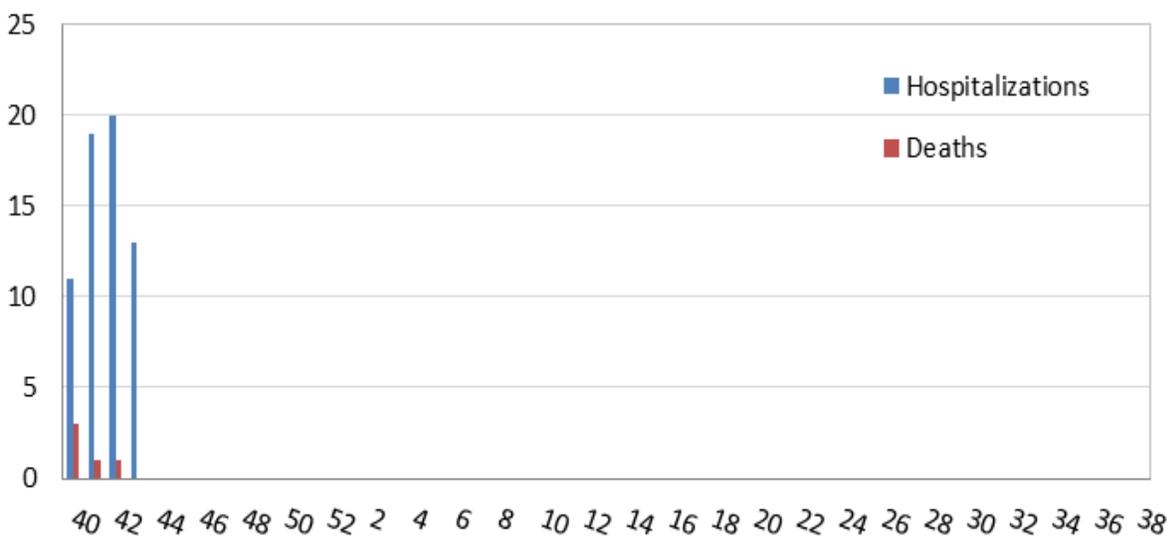
For the current MMWR reporting week, 13 laboratory confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by 54 hospitals. No laboratory confirmed influenza-associated deaths were reported. Since October 4, 2015 63 laboratory confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations and 5 laboratory confirmed influenza-associated deaths have been reported. **Laboratory confirmation for hospitalizations and deaths includes culture, PCR, DFA,**

<i>Current MMWR Week (10/25/15 - 10/31/15)</i>							
	0-4	5-17	18-49	50-64	65+	Unknown	Total
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	3	2	1	4	3	0	13
<b>Deaths</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

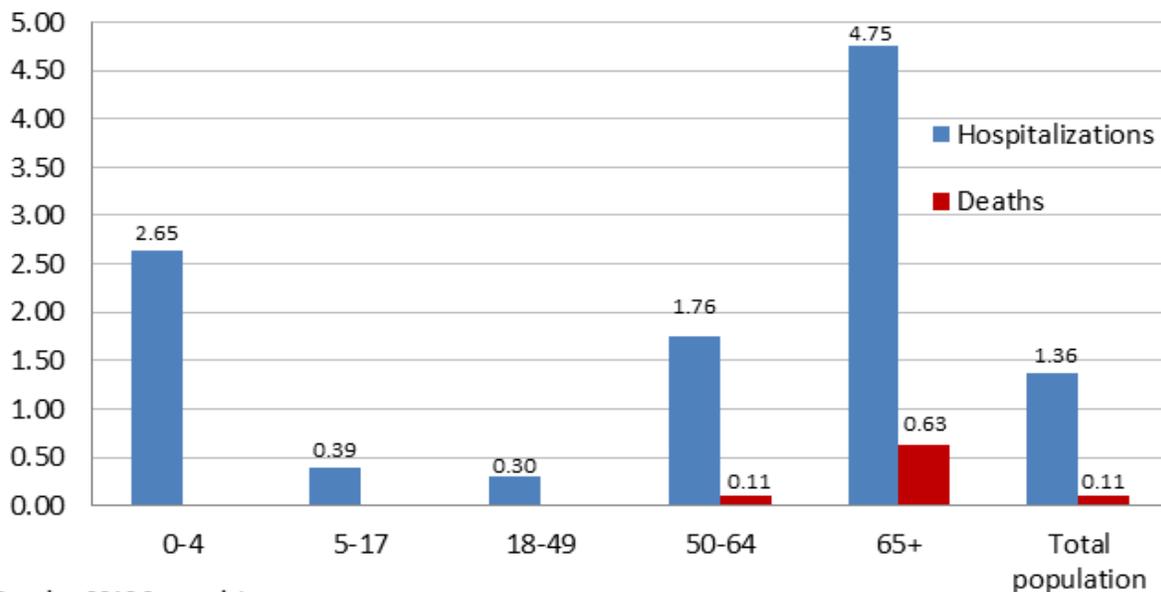
<i>Cumulative (10/4/15 -10/31/15)</i>							
	0-4	5-17	18-49	50-64	65+	Unknown	Total
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	8	3	6	16	30		63
<b>Deaths</b>	0	0	0	1	4		5

\* Lab confirmation for hospitalizations and deaths includes culture, PCR, DFA, IFA, and rapid test.

**Influenza-associated Hospitalizations and Deaths by MMWR week  
October 4, 2015 - October 31, 2015**



**Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (n=63) and Deaths (n=5)  
Case Rate/100,000\* by age group  
October 4, 2015 - October 31, 2015**



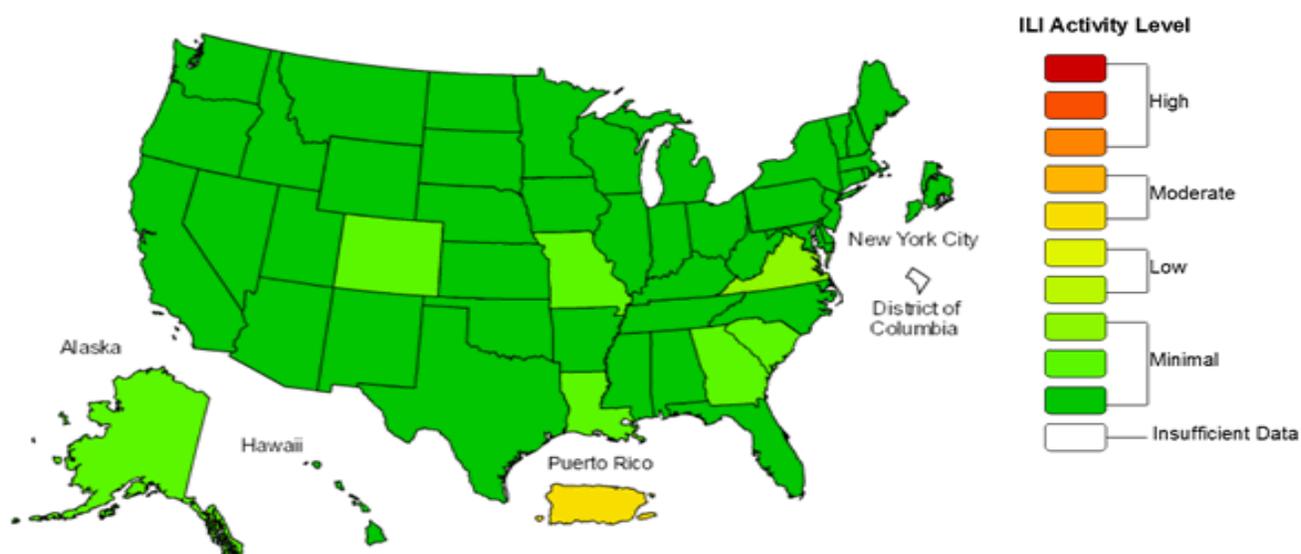
\*Based on 2010 Census data

## V. National surveillance (10/18/15 – 10/24/15)

During week 42 (October 18-24, 2015), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories in week 42 was influenza A viruses, with influenza A (H3) viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported that occurred during the 2014-15 season.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.3%, which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced moderate ILI activity, New York City and 50 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and one state was reported as regional activity; six states reported local activity; Puerto Rico and 35 states reported sporadic activity; and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight states reported no influenza activity.

**Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet  
2015-16 Influenza Season Week 42 ending Oct 24, 2015**



## VI. South Carolina Influenza Surveillance Components

South Carolina influenza surveillance consists of mandatory and voluntary reporting systems for year-round influenza surveillance. These networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden.

### Mandatory Reporting

#### Positive confirmatory test reporting

Positive influenza culture, PCR, DFA, and IFA results from commercial laboratories must be reported to DHEC within 3 days electronically via CHES or using a DHEC 1129 card.

#### Positive rapid antigen test reporting

*Summary numbers* of positive rapid influenza tests and influenza type identified must be sent to the regional health department by fax or email before noon on Monday for the preceding week.

#### Influenza deaths

All laboratory confirmed influenza deaths (adult and pediatric) must be reported to DHEC within 24 hours. These include results from viral culture, PCR, rapid flu tests, DFA, IFA or autopsy results consistent with influenza.

#### Influenza hospitalizations

DHEC requires weekly submission of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations. Hospitals must report these to their regional health department by noon on Monday for the preceding week.

For additional information about ILINet or to become an ILINet provider, contact the Acute Disease Epidemiology influenza surveillance coordinator at [springcb@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:springcb@dhec.sc.gov).

### Voluntary Networks

#### Influenza-Like Illness (ILINet) Sentinel Providers Network

ILINet focuses on the number of patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms in the absence of another known cause. ILI is defined as fever (temperature  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) plus a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. Providers submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen in a week and the subset number of those patients with ILI symptoms by age group.

#### South Carolina Disease Alerting, Reporting & Tracking System (SC-DARTS)

SC-DARTS is a collaborative network of syndromic surveillance systems within South Carolina. Currently our network contains the following data sources: SC Hospital Emergency Department (ED) chief-complaint data, Poison Control Center call data, Over-the-Counter (OTC) pharmaceutical sales surveillance, and CDC's BioSense Biosurveillance system. The hospital ED syndromic surveillance system classifies ED chief complaint data into appropriate syndrome categories (ex: Respiratory, GI, Fever, etc.). These syndrome categories are then analyzed using the cumulative sum (CUSUM) methodology to detect any significant increases. Syndromic reports are distributed back to the hospital on a daily basis.

## VII. Definitions for Influenza Surveillance

**Activity level:** Indicator of the geographic spread of influenza activity which is reported to CDC each week.

- **No activity:** No increase in ILI activity and no laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.
- **Sporadic:** No increase in ILI activity and isolated laboratory-confirmed influenza cases
- **Local:** Increased ILI or 2 or more institutional outbreaks in one region and laboratory-confirmed influenza cases within the past 3 weeks in the region with increased ILI or outbreaks
- **Regional:** Increased ILI or institutional outbreaks in 2-3 regions and laboratory-confirmed influenza cases within the past 3 weeks in the regions with increased ILI or institutional outbreaks
- **Widespread:** Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks in at least 4 regions and laboratory confirmed influenza in the state within the past 3 weeks

**Confirmatory testing:** Influenza testing which is considered to be confirmatory, such as a viral culture or RT-PCR

**Influenza-associated death:** A death in which laboratory confirmation (see definition below) for influenza was reported, or for which an autopsy report consistent with influenza was provided, regardless of primary cause of death.

**Influenza-like illness (ILI):** Fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and cough and/or sore throat

**MMWR week:** Term for influenza surveillance week. Each week begins on Sunday and ends on Monday. The influenza season begins with MMWR week 40 and ends with MMWR week 39. The 2015-16 influenza season began on October 4, 2015 and will end on October 1, 2016.

**Laboratory-confirmation:** Influenza positive resulting from one of the following methods:

- DFA
- IFA
- Rapid influenza antigen test
- RT-PCR
- Viral culture